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Indian Section

1. Investigation of the post-war organization of the Indian section of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) has revealed the very secondary role played by the Indians in comparison with the Chinese.
2. In December 1945, two Indians (one, the late Ganapathy) who were already members of the MCP were instigated by the Chinese leaders of the party to recruit Indians. A temporary committee was set up in April 1946 and known as the Indian Executive Committee (IEC). This was subordinate to the Central Executive Committee of the MCP, and received the latter's instructions through a Chinese Liaison Officer. It built up three regional groups for North, Central and South Malaya and had a propaganda section which was later enlarged under pressure from the Chinese who supplied most of the necessary funds. State and city branches were organized but it was not until about August 1947 that the IEC acquired a full range of administrative sections similar to those of the MCP. By this time the Indians' enthusiasm appears to have slackened and the MCP leaders recognized that it was necessary to grant them a greater degree of responsibility. The IEC was therefore reorganized and expanded, and the new and more flexible rules of the MCP, drawn up by the Chinese were adopted. Contact with the parallel Chinese branches was close at State and city levels, but the number of Indians who had access to the Chinese at the top was extremely limited.
3. The special emphasis of work among the Indians was on penetration and control of labor unions, and therefore it is not surprising to note that one third of the members at State committee level were trade union organizers.
4. Early in 1948, after the Calcutta Congress of the Communist Party of India (CPI), it is reported that the CEC of the MCP was considering allotting places to Indians and Malays within the higher councils and ranks of the party. However, before any such plan could be put into effect, the present insurrection broke out. The Chinese seem to have been aware by about April 1948 of what was going to occur, but, with one or two exceptions, the Indians were ignorant of the imminence of open rebellion, and had made no

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preparation to go underground. As a result they have proved militarily almost useless, and practically all the leading Indians have now been put out of action either by death or arrest.

5. Contact with the CPI was haphazard and unproductive, and the Indians in Malaya received little advice or help from the CPI, even when a direct request was made to the latter.

Propaganda

6. There has been the expected increase in propaganda, particularly noticeable in Singapore where a new underground paper, Student News,* has made an appearance. The necessity to cultivate the Malays is recognized by more propaganda being printed in Jawi, and efforts are being made to achieve wider distribution outside the party. There is no specially noticeable new line, but it is apparent that the conflicting claims of the MCP and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) on the loyalties of overseas Chinese, are causing the former much anxiety. It has been indicated that the MCP proposes to expel any member who returns to China, though it also recognizes the validity of the CCP demand that technicians and capitalists return to their homeland. CCP radio propaganda is said to be having a considerable effect on Malayan Chinese youths.

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- * Comment. The MCP began the publication of the Student News on 1 August 1949. In addition, the entire propaganda campaign has been intensified to such an extent that, despite the alertness and efforts of the Security Forces, propaganda pamphlets are being found in increasing numbers in Singapore, a fact of which the public is not informed.

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